

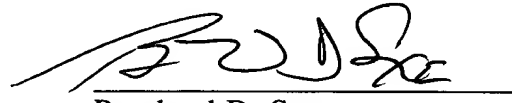
REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendment prior to examination is respectfully requested. This preliminary amendment cancels claims which have been prosecuted in co-pending application 09/219,870, set to issue on August 22, 2000 as U.S. Patent No. 6,106,791 and cancels claims that are presented in a co-pending divisional application filed concurrently. Claims 6 and 7 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of canceled claim 2 and 3, respectively. New claims 20-22 have been added to incorporate the subject matter of original multiple dependent claims 6 and 7.

An early action on the merits is requested. Should there be any questions, the Examiner is courteously invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

Aug. 21, 2000
Date


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